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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/641,335	08/18/2000	Nobuhisa Yoda	016907/1102	7051
22428	7590	06/02/2005	EXAMINER	
FOLEY AND LARDNER SUITE 500 3000 K STREET NW WASHINGTON, DC 20007			PARK, CHAN S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2622	

DATE MAILED: 06/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/641,335	YODA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	CHAN S. PARK	2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 November 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-10 and 12-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-10 and 12-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 14 July 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) ✓	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment was received on 11/22/04, and has been entered and made of record. Currently, **claims 1-10 and 12-21** are pending.

Drawings

2. The corrected or substitute drawings are received on 7/14/04. The drawings are acceptable.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to **claims 1-10 and 12-21** have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 9 recites the limitation "said plurality of document management systems".

There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For the examining purpose, it is construed as "a predetermined one of a plurality of document systems".

5. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the elements. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted element is "means for storing the document registration information in the buffer". Without such an element, it is unclear as to when/how the document registration information is ever stored in the same buffer that stores the electronic document.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-10, 12, 13, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Maniwa U.S. Patent No. 5,764,866.

6. With respect to claim 1, Maniwa discloses a document process system (fig. 9) comprising:

input means for inputting a condition for dividing a read electronic document and reconstructing the electronic document (col. 14, lines 59-67), and document registration information (col. 14, lines 25-35);

document division process means for dividing the electronic document read by a single operation (one double-sided sheet), on the basis of the condition input by the input means (col. 15, lines 18-28); and

a buffer for temporarily storing the electronic document divided by the document division process means (col. 14, lines 25-35, col. 16, lines 39-46 & col. 21, lines 28-37).

Also, note that the scanned images are divided according to the image file ID/name specified by the user via the operation panel (fig. 9).

7. With respect to claim 2, Maniwa discloses the document process system according to claim 1, wherein said input means is provided with a display for inputting the condition for dividing the read electronic document and reconstructing the electronic document, and the document registration information (col. 14, lines 25-35).

8. With respect to claim 3, Maniwa discloses the document process system according to claim 1, wherein said document process means divides the electronic document read by a plurality of operations, on the basis on the condition input by the input means (col. 21, lines 59-62).

9. With respect to claim 4, Maniwa discloses the document process system according to claim 1, wherein said document division process means comprises a

division process means, a division set process means, and a division inquire process means (col. 21, lines 28-62).

10. With respect to claim 5, Maniwa discloses the document process system according to claim 4, wherein said division set process means sets division information on the basis of the condition input by the input means (col. 14, lines 25-35 & col. 21, lines 44-62).

11. With respect to claim 6, Maniwa discloses the document process system according to claim 5, wherein said division process means divides the electronic document on the basis of the division information set by the division set process means (col. 14, lines 25-35 & col. 21, lines 44-62).

12. With respect to claim 7, Maniwa discloses the document process system according to claim 6, wherein said division inquire process means executes a process to prompt information input where the information input is required at a time of a process execution in the division process means (col. 21, lines 28-43).

13. With respect to claim 13, Maniwa discloses the document process system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a document register process section for executing document registration to a predetermined one of a plurality of document management systems on the basis of the electronic document and the document registration information stored in the buffer (col. 20, lines 38-56).

14. With respect to claim 8, Maniwa discloses the document process system according to claim 13, wherein said buffer is a buffer for use in dividing the electronic

document in a process of registering the electronic document into the document management system (col. 21, lines 44-51).

15. With respect to claim 9, Maniwa discloses the document process system according to claim 1, wherein said document register process means executes document registration to a predetermined one of a plurality of document systems on the basis of the electronic document and the document registration information stored in the buffer (col. 20, lines 38-56).

16. With respect to claim 20, Maniwa discloses the document process system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a scanner for reading a document and generating the electronic document (figs. 6 & 9).

17. With respect to claim 21, Maniwa discloses the document process system according to claim 1, wherein the electronic document divided by the document division process means is stored in the buffer as a plurality of separate and distinct electronic documents (col. 14, lines 59-67 & fig. 9).

18. With respect to claim 10, Maniwa discloses a document process system comprising:

a division set information input/output means for setting a condition for dividing a scan document and reconstructing a document (col. 14, lines 25-35);

a division set information database for storing the set condition (col. 14, lines 25-35);

a division set process means for storing the condition set by an operator through the division set information input/output means into the division set information database (col. 14, lines 25-35 and figs. 6 & 9); and

a division process means for executing a division process for the scan document by referring to contents in the division set information database (specified image file ID/name),

wherein the document is divided on the basis of the condition preset through the division set information input/output means and stored in the division set information database (image files in figs. 6 & 9).

19. With respect to claim 12, Maniwa discloses the document process system according to claim 10, wherein the document is divided to be registered to a plurality of document management systems (either server machine 90 or facsimiles via telephone line 13 in fig. 7 and col. 20, lines 33-67), on the basis of the condition preset through the division set information input/output means and stored in the division set information database.

Claims 14-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sakura U.S. Patent No. 6,122,684.

20. With respect to claim 14, Sakura discloses a document process system (fig. 1) comprising:

input means for inputting a condition for coupling a read electronic document and reconstructing the electronic document, and document registration information (col. 5, lines 26-38);

document coupling process means for coupling the electronic document read, on the basis of the condition input by the input means (col. 5, line 52 – col. 6, line 2); and a buffer for temporarily storing the electronic document coupled by the document coupling process means (col. 5, lines 52-55).

21. With respect to claim 15, Sakura discloses the document process system according to claim 14, wherein said document coupling process means couples the electronic document read by a plurality of operations, on the basis of the condition input by the input means (col. 5, lines 26-52).

22. With respect to claim 16, Sakura discloses the document process system according to claim 14, wherein said document coupling process means comprises a coupling process means, a coupling set process means, and a coupling inquire process means (col. 5, line 26 – col. 6, line 2).

23. With respect to claim 17, Sakura discloses the document process system according to claim 14, further comprising:

document register process means for executing document registration to a predetermined one of a plurality of document management systems on the basis of the electronic document and the document registration information stored in the buffer (col. 5, line 26 – col. 6, line 2).

24. With respect to claim 18, Sakura discloses a document process system (fig. 1) comprising:

a coupling set information input/output means for setting a condition for coupling a scan document and reconstructing a document (col. 5, lines 26-38);

a coupling set information database for storing the set condition (col. 4, lines 13-19 & col. 5, line 52 – col. 6, line 2);

a coupling set process means for storing the condition set by an operator through the coupling set information input/output means into the coupling set information database (col. 5, line 26 – col. 6, line 2); and

a coupling process means for executing a coupling process for the scan document by referring to contents in the coupling set information database,

wherein the document is coupled on the basis of the condition preset through the coupling set information input/output means and stored in the coupling set information database (col. 5, line 26 – col. 6, line 2).

25. With respect to claim 19, Sakura discloses the document process system according to claim 18,

wherein the document is coupled to be registered to a plurality of document management systems, on the basis of the condition set through the coupling set information input/output means and stored in the coupling set information database (col. 5, line 26 – col. 6, line 2).

Conclusion

26. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

27. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHAN S. PARK whose telephone number is (571) 272-7409. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached on (571) 272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Chan S. Park
Examiner
Art Unit 2622

csp
May 16, 2005


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